

March 20, 2017

Re: Docket No. RM-2017-3, Ten Year Rate System Review

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the Wilmington NC Local 145, APWU for the purpose of commenting on the Ten year Rate System Review. The members of our Local are both frontline workers of retail services, mail processing, maintenance, motor vehicle mechanics but also community members living and working throughout southeastern NC. We have a unique understanding of the financial challenges the United States Postal Service faces and its obligation to ensure universal services.

The current CPI rate cap has substantially hurt the financial condition of the Postal service which in turn has led to a reduction in the quality of service it provides including the costs from consolidations, closures and service standard degradations that have affected prompt, reliable and efficient services. As mail volumes and service continue to decline, the price cap endangers the Postal Service's financial viability.

Our members use the Postal Service and value its Constitutional existence. The PRC should eliminate the price cap to ensure that the USPS is able to generate the necessary revenue to remain a viable, thriving, public institution that provides prompt and affordable service. . The USPS must have sufficient financial stability to ensure that it can operate in a manner that provides quality service to everyone, regardless of geographical area. Without a flexible system that allows the Postal Service to respond to demand, the economy, and costs, the Postal Service will be unable to deliver stable postal services.

Sincerely,

William Whalen – General President
Wilmington Local 145, APWU
PO box 2811
Wilmington, NC 28402
(910) 341-5100